

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multilayer piezoelectric element comprising:

a first internal electrode;

5 a second internal electrode; and

a piezoelectric layer, disposed between the first and second internal electrodes, including a through hole in which a conductive substance is disposed;

10 wherein the first internal electrode has an electrode portion for producing, in cooperation with the second internal electrode, an electric field in the piezoelectric layer, and a connection portion connected to the conductive substance in the through hole; and

15 wherein the connection portion is formed at a position shifted from the longitudinal centerline of the electrode portion.

2. A multilayer piezoelectric element according to claim 1, wherein the first internal electrode is an individual electrode, and a plurality of individual electrodes are formed on one face of the piezoelectric layer.

20 3. A multilayer piezoelectric element according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of individual electrodes are disposed in a matrix on the piezoelectric layer.

25 4. A multilayer piezoelectric element

according to claim 2, wherein the connection portion is positioned between adjacent electrode portions.

5 5. A multilayer piezoelectric element according to claim 2, wherein the second internal electrode is a common electrode, and is formed on the other face of the piezoelectric layer while having a shape to overlay the electrode portion across the piezoelectric layer.

10 6. A multilayer piezoelectric element according to claim 1, further comprising an outermost layer laminated on a top of a plurality of piezoelectric layers;

15 wherein the outermost layer has an external electrode opposed to the connection portion in a thickness direction of the piezoelectric element.